

My Dear Parishioners,

There are no ends to the demands made upon a parent. Regardless of the ages of your children, the expectations never end. There are times when every Mom and Dad feels completely exhausted; there is nothing more to give. Yet we find that there's always a little more left than we think. There is a little more patience, a little more understanding, a little more forgiveness and always more love to give. Our parental **"nets"** may strain at times but they never tear or break.

Perhaps you are part of a group working on some parish or community project. You might have had doubts about the value of your own contributions. You wonder if you could keep up with others. "These other folks seem to know what they are doing." But once you saw what could be done, once you realized the good you could do, once you met the people you could help, you discovered that your **"nets"** were strong enough not to tear or break.

As a teenager you notice someone at your school struggling. They have just moved here and are having a hard time adapting to their new environment and they are having trouble making friends. They are not keeping up in class and are falling behind in their class assignments. You would like to help them but you are not one of the smart kids or cool kids. You are afraid to reach out to them because you fear that you might embarrass them, or that you will make matters worse, or that you will be told to mind your own business. But, more often than not, your simple "Hello" or "How's it going?" may be the beginning of helping them start to put it together. Your own **"net"** is much stronger than you think.

The Risen Jesus continues to be the focus of our Scripture readings for today. The Risen Jesus makes His presence known to individuals calling them to live out their faith in a particular way. Despite their doubts, frustrations and fears these individuals respond to Jesus's invitation and follow His instructions. They end up doing Jesus' ministry by casting out their **"nets."** Notice that their **"nets"** did not tear or break.

Today's first reading is taken from the Acts of the Apostles. After His ascension, Jesus continued His forgiving and healing ministry through His apostles. On one occasion, Peter and John healed a lame man and they attributed the healing to the power of the Risen Jesus. This led to their arrest for preaching about Jesus and they were given a warning not to speak about Jesus again. A second time they were arrested and were

thrown in jail but an angel set them free. They continued to preach about Jesus so they were arrested for a third time and this is where things are in today's passage from Acts. Peter and John are on trial before the Sanhedrin which was for the Jews their supreme religious authority made up of 71 members of the Sadducees, the Pharisees and the high priestly families. The Sanhedrin tried to dissuade Peter, John and the Apostles from preaching about Jesus. Peter responded to their attempts by referring to Jesus as "savior;" that precious word referring to Jesus as the liberator of Israel and the forgiver of sins. According to the Sanhedrin this made Peter a heretic. To the Sanhedrin, Peter and the Apostles were a threat because they were potential disturbers of the peace. If there were an uprising Rome would come in to reestablish order and in the process would eliminate the Sanhedrin's prestige.

Peter and the Apostles' response showed who they truly were: courageous witnesses to Jesus' Resurrection and heralds of this miraculous event to the world. As men of courage and principles they no longer intended "to play it safe" as they put their obedience to God's word before everything else. They were very much aware and clear of their duty which was to be a witness for Jesus. Peter's response **must** always be ours: "Better for us to obey God rather than people." The Sanhedrin (after administering words of warning) dismissed Peter and the Apostles. For their part, Peter and the Apostles left the Sanhedrin "full of **joy.**" **Joy** is the one unfailing sign of the Spirit's presence and the greatest sentiment of this Easter season. Peter and the Apostles were full of **joy** because they had the opportunity to share in Jesus' suffering.

The Book of Revelation affirms that the proper response to Easter is to give glory and praise to the Lamb (Jesus) and to God who sits on the throne. In today's passage from Revelation, John describes a vision that reveals the heavenly throne room where angels, living creatures, and elders surround the throne of God. The living creatures are reminiscent of the figures that stood guard at the entrance of the temples. Twenty-four elders join the four living creatures and the angels in praise. Although the focus is the investiture of the Lamb, the message behind the vision is more theological than Christological. God, not the Lamb is seated on the throne. Worship of and devotion to Christ must be understood in terms of His relationship with God the Father. Worship of the Lamb leads to witness which then leads to authentic worship.

One of the ways the early Christians expressed their faith in Jesus' Resurrection was by telling stories wherein Jesus would appear to a group of disciples after being raised from the dead and then revealing Himself to them. When this happened there was always shock and surprise expressed as well as rejoicing. Connected to these stories would be a sharing of food (usually bread or fish) which guaranteed that it was really Jesus who was being revealed at the meal. Today's passage from John's Gospel is a lengthy appearance story that combines a story about a miraculous catch of fish with the recognition of Jesus. The Gospel passage contains two separate events. The first is an appearance story of the Risen Jesus that takes place at the Sea of Tiberias while the apostles are fishing. The second event narrates the "forgiveness and rehabilitation of Peter." Peter is given a second chance to commit himself to Jesus and follow Him.

After Jesus' crucifixion Peter and the Apostles returned to their old trade of fishing. With Jesus' death, it was back to business as usual for the apostles. Some may question why the apostles would do this so soon after experiencing the death of their leader Jesus. There is no suggestion that they believed themselves had a mission to carry on after Jesus' death. After Jesus had died their hopes and dreams went into the tomb and they returned to old familiar ways. As stated in today's Gospel passage, after a long night of fishing the Apostles come up with nothing. Coming back to shore they see a person (Jesus) but they do not recognize Him. This person engages them in conversation and somehow He convinces them to cast out their "nets" again. They do so and pull in a marvelous haul. The Beloved Disciple (John) identifies the person as being Jesus. Peter in his excitement tries treading water to be with Jesus. Jesus then gathers the Apostles together and with some of the fish plus some bread shares a meal with them. Only then do the Apostles recognize Jesus through His action of sharing a meal.

After the meal Jesus directs His attention to Peter. Jesus quizzes Peter three times about the reality of his **love**. Insisting on **love** is something of a mark with Jesus. A bit annoyed, Peter affirms his **love** three times just as he had previously denied Jesus three times. We can hear the pain and hurt in Peter's voice but also his conviction in his response after Jesus asks Peter a third time if he loves Him: "Lord you know everything. You know that I love you." Jesus is **not** taunting Peter but rather He is calling Peter to move beyond the past

and to take on the challenges of discipleship. In forgiving Peter as He does Jesus transforms Peter's regrets and shame into an understanding of and commitment to His Gospel.

Jesus accepts Peter's affirmation and renews his call to discipleship with the mandate that Peter feed and nourishes His flock (lambs and sheep). This is a call to the pastoral ministry of the Church. This is what Peter and all who are called to ministry must do-nourish the flock. Seeing Jesus is always a call for ministry. **Loving** Jesus is always a charge to care for others. Peter will continue insisting on his **love** for Jesus and this insistence will take him to martyrdom in Rome. In the end Jesus' question: "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" becomes profoundly unnecessary. There is nothing circumstantial about Peter's love for Jesus.

When we act out of **love**, when we put aside our own fears, doubts, and expectations for the sake of others, when we seek to imitate the selfless compassion of the Risen Jesus, we will discover Jesus promise of how strong and indestructible our own "**nets**" are and will continue to be. When we act out of **love** we will discover that we are able to realize a catch of good things despite the hopelessness of the night, the fear of the unknown deep, or the weight of the catch we struggle to haul to shore. Have a Blessed Week.

Love & Prayers,
Fr. John

P.S. I want to congratulate the **22** children from our Parish who received Jesus for the very first time in the Most Holy Eucharist this weekend. May Jesus continue to bless you, your parents and your family as you continue your faith journey.

The Icon of Our Mother of Perpetual Help

Rev. Philip Dabney, C.Ss.R. will present a two night presentation on the Icon of Our Mother of Perpetual Help in Church on **May 20** and **May 21** at **7PM**. All are invited to come out and hear Fr. Dabney's inspiring talks.

Monday Evening, May 20, 2019.

The Stories Hidden Within the Icon of Our Mother of Perpetual Help

The icon of Our Mother of Perpetual Help has three stories: its history, its symbolic meaning, and its spiritual power to draw us into the presence of God.

Tuesday Evening, May 21, 2019

Behold Your Mother

A personal witness talk on how the icon of Mother of Perpetual Help became a fountain of grace in my life that ultimately led me to the altar of God and beyond.

Fr. Philip Dabney, C.Ss.R. is presently a parish priest



at the Basilica of Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Boston, MA. Prior to this, he taught in the minor seminary, was rector of Holy Redeemer College in Washington DC, and a vocation director for the Baltimore Province for 15 years. He has preached numerous parish missions and retreats for laity and

religious and presently loves preaching on Our Mother of Perpetual Help every week at the Wednesday Novena and on the Catholic Cable TV in Boston. The one gift he believes he has to offer you these days is simply his love for his priesthood and the people of God whom he serves. As he once wrote: "I began my priesthood by offering my life to Christ and he has filled my life with his people."

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, May 6

7:00 †Charles & Elizabeth Tucker
9:00 †Stanley Wilk

Tuesday, May 7

7:00 †Warren & Alverta Hecker
9:00 †Pauline Kohut

Wednesday, May 8

7:00 †Charles & Joan Tucker
9:00 †Mary & William Sudbrink

Thursday, May 9

9:00 †Kathleen Kilkuskie
7:00 †Norman Kern

Friday, May 10, St. Damien de Vester, Priest

7:00 †Joseph Miletics
9:00 †Mychaela Donnelly Parmer

Saturday, May 11

9:00 †Norman Kern
5:00 †Jim Mondo

Sunday, May 12, Third Sunday of Easter

7:30 For the Parishioners
9:00 †Sue Eisenbise
11:00 †Rose Flederbach



Date	Amount	Needed	Difference
4-28-19	\$10,154.09	\$14,300.00	\$4,145.91
YTD	Amount	YTD Needed	Difference
4-28-19	\$549,975.20	\$629,200.00	(\$79,229.80)

SANCTUARY LAMP



You may have the Sanctuary Lamp burn for a sick or deceased loved one for a donation of \$5 to defray the cost of the candles. This week the candle burns for Pauline Kohut.

2019 Diocesan Appeal

On March 17th we began our 2019 Diocesan Appeal which supports numerous ministries and programs in our Diocese. As of April 21st only **257 families/households** have made pledges in the amount of **\$69,605** and we have collected **\$48,028**. I want to express my appreciation and gratitude to those who have already made pledges and given money to the Appeal. As you know our Parish Assessment is **\$101,300**. There are approximately **1250 families/households** in our Parish. I humbly ask those who have **not** made a pledge yet to kindly do so. Pledge envelopes can be found in the Church narthex or can be picked up in the Parish Office. Thank you and God bless. Fr. John

REJOICING

“They left . . . rejoicing that they had been found worthy to suffer dishonor.” That’s rather odd! Wouldn’t you expect the apostles to be grateful that they left that trial alive? Or relieved that they didn’t get punished any more severely? They may have thought these things, of course, but it seems that they were most happy to have been found “worthy” to be arrested, threatened, and flogged by their own people. What gave the apostles a perspective like this? The answer lies in one simple line from today’s passage. Explaining themselves to the Sanhedrin, Peter and the others said, “The God of our ancestors raised Jesus, though you had him killed by hanging him on a tree” Jesus’ resurrection changed everything! The apostles had seen him endure an agonizing death and still come out the other side filled with the glory of God. With their very eyes, they saw definitive proof that death had been overcome. It wasn’t the end of Jesus’ story, and it wasn’t the end of theirs either.

IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

We will be publishing the names of your dear loved ones who are seriously ill or injured. After the period of one month their names will be removed. For example, names announced in the bulletin the third week of the month will be removed the third week of the following month. If at that time prayers are still needed, please feel free to contact the parish office, and we will be more than happy to re-publish your loved one’s name. Margaret Gardner, Abigail Lowe-Critchfield, Michael Lillis, Anna Lesher, Florence Windish, Gloria Reynolds, Patrick Michael Ward, Carlos Luciano Sr., Gerald Gigliotti, Francis Gatti, Antonia Scribani, Jean Mash, Jody Shimp, Gloria Kreider, Marianne Kurtz, Connie Scanlon, Ray Ward, Caroline LaMacchin, Edward Hoffman, Jean Mack, Andy Marvin, Jane Muldowney, Thomas Lynch, Edward Hoffman Jennifer Ranker, Robert Bevans, Lori Ritz and Michael Burkholder.

OMPH ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION



The mission of this organization is to promote Catholic morals, values and sportsmanship through athletic programs for Our Mother of Perpetual Help (OMPH), Our Lady of Lourdes (LOL) and St. James parishes. The goal is to teach the fundamentals of sports, the importance of team play and stress good sportsmanship according to Catholic principles.

President – Chris Sheaffer
Vice President – Bill Baumler
Treasurer – Melissa Kern
Secretary – Amanda Lamison



Religious Education Corner:

**Our RE Mass Schedule For The
Remainder Of The Year Is As Follows:**

**Saturday, May 4th – 5:00 PM Mass
First Holy Communion Mass**

**The Religious Education Program Would Like
To Thank The Following Parishioners For Serving
With The Program For The 2018/2019 RE Year.**

Deb Chisholm	Lori McCormack
Ben Dangelo	Jill McGowan
Pat Dangelo	Mary Pentz
Tammy Dissinger	Kim Shirker
Denise Duchesneau	Matt Shirker
Stephanie Gee	Colleen Smalley
Rosemarie Goss	Carole Socie
Robyn Hunter	Walter Stahl
Donna Kelly	Steve Wissler
Tim Lawrence	Veida Wissler
Mary Jo Maggio	Gail Zimnoch

**Please Look For Registrations Forms For The
2019/2020 RE Year Soon. Please Stay Tuned To The
Bulletin For More Details Regarding Registration.**

**OMPH RE Not Only Needs Our Mother's Perpetual
Help, But Your Help As Well!**

Please Consider Joining The Exciting Adventure Of
Passing On Our Wonderful Catholic Faith To The Next
Generation By Assisting The RE Program As A
Catechist, Aide Or Occasional Substitute.

Please Contact Kelly Lawrence In The
Religious Education Office If You Are Interested In
Volunteering For The 2019/2020 RE Year. Thanks!

*Please Note: All RE Program Volunteers Must Have
Their Required Diocesan Clearances Which Can Be
Easily Obtained Through The RE Office.*

Email: omphreled@dejazzd.com

Phone: 717-738-4517

Kelly Lawrence

THANK YOU



We would like to thank our OMPH family for all the cards, flowers, love, and prayers and kind words, due to the loss of our beloved granddaughter Adriana Joy Fittipaldi.

Please pray for our continued healing, God Bless You!
The Wanchalk, Fittipaldi & Southward Families.



NEEDED GOLFERS AND SPONSORS

**Our Mother of Perpetual Help School
27th Annual Benefit Golf Tournament
May 8, 2019**

Honeybrook Golf Club

Enjoy a fun filled day of golf at a first class course.
Prizes and contests including a chance to win a trip for
two to the 2020 Super Bowl or \$15,000 cash.

A single golfer is only \$90 and includes golf at
Honeybrook Golf Course, cart, range balls, contests,
prizes, light breakfast, delicious lunch and
refreshments.

Advertising through sponsorship reaches members of
surrounding business communities as well as school
families and friends and is available by contacting the
School Development Office at 717-738-2414 or
www.golfgenius.com/ggid/omphgolfouting.

BENEVOLENT SOCIETY



The parish Benevolent Society's food bank is in need of canned corn, green beans, instant mashed potatoes, canned fruits. Please consider purchasing an extra item or two on your next grocery trip. As always, we are grateful for your continued support.

GIFT CARDS

Gift Cards are now available for purchase in the Parish Office! Gift cards to local grocery stores, gas stations, pharmacies and restaurants are now available for purchase in the **Parish Office every Sunday from 8am to 11am.** It costs nothing extra to purchase these gift cards, and OMPH School

earns a percentage of the value of the gift cards purchased! The funds raised through the gift card initiative are directed to the School Support Scholarship program. Purchases can be made using cash or a check made out to OMPH School. Please join us in supporting our gift card program.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

OMPH Vacation Bible School is looking for volunteers!! IF you are an adult or teen who likes working with kids or crafting, building sets ... we have a job for you! Please consider sharing your gifts and talents with the children of our parish. VBS will be held **July 14-18** from **5:45 p.m. to 8:20 p.m.** We can use help for the whole week, a few days or even help ahead of time cutting out decorations or even working on bigger projects. Any questions please call Carolyn at 799-8222 or email carolyn@ensingerprinting.com

The Faculty of OMPH extends congratulations to graduates of OMPH School and members of OMPH Parish who were recognized for their outstanding academic achievement at LCHS. We are very proud of our students who received honors for the third quarter of the 2018-2019 academic year.



Distinguished Honors: Alexis Baker, Ella Cassidy, Kevin Draeger, Jacob Fertal, Adeline Hibshman, Rachel Houser, Daniel Leonard, Allie McCormac, Ava McTamney-Prexta, Riley Smith, Isabelle Titzer and Camille Zapata.

Honor Roll: Cecilia Deel, Maria DeTrempe, Daniel Duchesneau, Erin Haldeman, Mathias Hummer, Johann Imperial, Emma Kirchner, Colin McCullough, Alexis Pickel, Anthony Sivillo and David Vasquez Cabrales.

Ella Cassidy was named Student of the Quarter.

ORDER OF MALTA



Renowned author and speaker Joseph Pearce will be discussing the great reformers of the Catholic Church. Learn how some of our greatest saints provide models for defending the faith today. This even

takes place Thursday, May 16th, following a 6 PM Mass at St. Leo the Great Catholic Church. Doors open at 5:30. This event is free and open to the public, and is part of the Order of Malta's Defense of the Faith Series.

DONATION DROP-OFF DAY GOOD CONDITION ONLY!

St. John Neumann Parish, 601 E. Delp Road, Lancaster will have a **ONE DAY ONLY** Drop-Off Day for Apartment sized furniture such as: single dressers, lightweight organizer shelf units, night/end/coffee tables, Love Seats, Small Sofas, Livingroom Chairs, and Kitchen Tables and Chairs. And basic living needs for kitchen, bed & bath: cooking utensils. Working condition Small Appliances: fans, lamps, vacuums, toasters, blenders, hand mixers, microwaves & slow cookers.

Drop-off is in the parking lot behind the church. On May 11th from 10 AM – 1 PM.

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

A workshop for ALL Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion *who have not renewed their mandate in the past 3 years* will be held on **Wednesday, May 22** at St. James in Lititz from 7-9 PM. Anyone interested in becoming an Extraordinary Minister please call Mary Burkholder at 717-733-4989 by May 12.

KNIGHT OF COLUMBUS NEWS



The Knights of Columbus presented to Jere Cassidy the Knight of the Year 2019 award by Grand Knight Matt Auker

Knights of Columbus' Family of the Year 2019 was presented to Lea and William Hydock by Grand Knight Matt Auker



YOUTH GROUP NEWS

News from Radiate Youth Group: Next youth group meeting is Sunday, May 19th from 3:30-5:30 pm. Gardening at the OMPH Memorial monument at the cemetery. Come to OMPH parking lot dressed in old clothing. Also, movie night May 31st from 6-8 pm. For more details, please contact Denise Ives at 717-989-8900. In His Service, Denise Ives